Native American Curriculum Initiative Lessons

These lessons have been carefully written in order to honor and respect each tribal nation’s wishes.

Published Lessons - Approved by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

**Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation**
- **Coyote Steals Fire** - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier
  - Learn about the history and culture of the northwestern Shoshone people.
  - Paint a watercolor landscape of an environment with Utah wildlife.
- **I Love the Mountains -- Damen Doiya** - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg
  - Compare and contrast two songs.
  - Identify Utah’s three main geographic regions.
  - Learn about the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation.

**Northwestern Shoshone Fish Song** (Pengwi bai Anoga) - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg
- Sing a Northwestern Shoshone song.
- Write a narrative story about an experience in nature.
- Create music compositions patterned after the song.

**Railroad Meter** - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg
- Conduct songs in different meters.
- Research and present about historical songs with connections to the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Compare and contrast cultural groups impacted by the railroad.

**Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah**
- **Paiute Alphabet Song** - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg and Eliza Een
  - Play a game to compare and contrast the Southern Paiute and English languages.
  - Explore beat and rhythm.
  - Sing the “ABC Song” and learn the “Paiute Alphabet Song.”
- **Paiute Federal Recognition and Sovereignty** - Drama lesson by Hayley Anderson and Emily Soderborg
  - Through process drama activities, explore the history of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.
  - Explore losing and regaining federal recognition.
  - Work in collaborative groups.
- **Paiute Storied Rocks** - Music Lesson by Emily Soderborg and Eliza Een
  - Read Paiute picture writing and learn some Native American universal sign language.
  - Compose a new song by rearranging parts of a familiar tune.
  - Compare the English and Southern Paiute languages.
- **Paiute Symbols and Logos** - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier, Eliza Een, and Emily Soderborg
  - Learn about signs, symbols, petroglyphs, and pictographs.
  - Understand the meaning behind the logos of the five Paiute bands.
  - Create a personal logo through printmaking.
- **Why the Moon Paints Her Face Black** - Visual arts lesson by Chris Roberts and Brenda Beyal
  - Listen and respond to a Paiute story.
  - Explore art making, using chalk or crayons.
  - Create a project depicting one of the scenes in the book.
General Tribes of Utah

**Native American Round Dance** - Dance lesson by Brenda Beyal and Chris Roberts
- Explore the traditional Native American Round Dance.
- Invite a Native American to share proper Round Dance steps.
- Compare and contrast beats of various Round Dance songs.

**The Great American Bison** - Visual arts lesson by Brenda Beyal
- Understand the impact of the Transcontinental Railroad on American bison herds.
- Compare and contrast differing perspectives.
- Upcycle found objects into artwork.

In Process

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

The Greedy Porcupine - Drama lesson by Lisa Bean and Emily Soderborg
- Explore a Northwestern Shoshone tale through a reader's theatre.
- Convey meaning using voice, facial expressions, gestures, and instruments.
- Develop fluency and further enhance comprehension.

Tipi Making - Visual arts lesson by Tanner Weyland, Brenda Beyal, and Rachel Gonthier

Coyote Steals Fire - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Utah Environment Through the Eyes of the Paiute - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball
- Learn about Utah environments through dance.
- Use a Paiute Beliefs narrative to understand human relationship with the environment.
- Learn several Native American signs used to describe animals and landforms.

Navajo Nation

Navajo Rug/Geometric Design - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Navajo Weaving - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier, Adalyn Gaston, and Brenda Beyal

Shi naashá - Music lesson by Emily Soderborg

Navajo Basket Weaving - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier

Navajo Landscape through Photography - Media arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier and Eugene Tapahe

Fry Bread - Music lesson by Jennifer Purdy

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute

Pia Toya - Visual arts lesson by Brenda Beyal and Rachel Gonthier
- Read the book Pia Toya
- Become familiar with how mountains are formed.
- Learn a chalk pastel technique.
- Create a landscape.

General Tribes of Utah

Native American Tribes in Utah - Dance lesson by Rachel Marie Kimball

Indianization of Lewis and Clark - Visual arts lesson by Rachel Gonthier